

Transitional Arrangements

New *Joint Inns Education & Qualification Rules* were introduced on 1 January 2020 replacing the former Consolidated Rules of the Inns of Court. Please note however that the rules for Qualifying Sessions set out in the former Consolidated Rules still apply for a transitional period to the following:

1. Students starting the Bar Course before 1 June 2020 and being Called no later than 30 June 2021.
2. Transferring Lawyers who are admitted to an Inn prior to 1 September 2020.

These Qualifying Sessions rules can be found at section 3B of the [Bar Qualification Manual](#) and in the following extract from the former Consolidated Rules of the Inns of Court:

“Each Inn must ensure that a Qualifying Session has both educational and collegiate content.

The Inns have collectively developed and agreed criteria to specify the grounds on which the requirement to attend Qualifying Sessions may in exceptional circumstances be waived or modified. The Inns will not allow waivers for lateness or failure to attend all parts of a Qualifying Session unless the reasons for delay or failure are exceptional.

Qualifying sessions normally may only be held during the four law terms:

Michaelmas Term – from 1 October – 21 December;

Hilary Term – from 11 January to the Wednesday before Easter Sunday;

Easter Term – from the second Tuesday after Easter Sunday to the last Friday in May; and,

Trinity Term – from the second Tuesday after the end of the Easter Term to 31 July.

Normally, no more than six Qualifying Sessions may be completed in any one term.

Each Inn may normally provide up to three Qualifying Sessions at a BPTC institution or in a location close to it, during a given academic year. One additional Qualifying Session may also be arranged by the BPTC Course Provider. Such Qualifying Sessions must have both an educational and collegiate content.

Attendance at a training weekend for students at Cumberland Lodge, West Dean or other such location approved by the Masters of the Bench will count for up to three qualifying sessions.

Attendance at the student’s Call ceremony and the accompanying collegiate event will count as a Qualifying Session for that student.

Attendance at a Qualifying Session will not be counted unless the student has paid the prescribed fee and attends both the educational and collegiate elements of the event.”